

Tuscola 4-H youth and his steer win Grand Champion

By Dominik Stallings

During the Illinois State Fair, Maddox Reedy's steer was chosen to be the Grand Champion Land of Lincoln steer in the junior livestock division.

"I think my steer ... stood out the most because of his deep rib and muscle, and how good he also walked and how wide topped he was," said 11-year-old Maddox.

Maddox went on to sell the steer at auction for \$40,000 to Evelyn Brandt Thomas of Springfield. Thomas, who turned 100 last week, still manages the family business and helped grow BRANDT Inc., which provides fertilizers and other services to farmers.

Maddox's mother, Sarah Reedy said, "I think for us this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Maddox and our family to be part of. He was able to take it all in and get a group of friends that showed different animals and species of livestock from all over the state of Illinois when he was in the hall of champions," Sarah said that half of the

money from the sale will go into a college fund for Maddox. The other half will be distributed to organizations such as Future Farmers of America (FFA) and 4-H.

Maddox has been taking part in livestock shows since he was 6 years old. Getting to the championship took a lot of work. Maddox said the competition has two classes of short-horn steers, with seven steers in each class. Maddox was in the lightest weight class in the competition.

Maddox worked hard to raise the steer.

"You have to feed them and water them and give hay and turn them out every night... It's hard, but I do like it a lot. I wouldn't trade it for any other lifestyle," said Maddox.

He also helps raise other livestock as well.

"Whenever we raise the animals, if I own the momma cow, I help pull the calf," said Maddox.

His father, Kyle Reedy, said it's also difficult to raise animals since you have to work



MADDOX REEDY displays his Grand Champion Land of Lincoln steer during the Illinois State Fair. It sold for \$40,000 to Evelyn Brandt-Thomas at the Hall of Champions Auction on Aug. 14. Submitted photo.

outside in any sort of weather. Kyle said the hardest part of the competition was selling the steer, since Maddox formed an attachment to the animal while they worked together.

Kyle and Sarah raised livestock while growing up. To them, it was important for Maddox to experience a similar childhood to their own, learning to be responsible by taking

care of animals. Sarah said that the country lifestyle allows them to instill the importance of work ethic in Maddox.

The family also works on their farm raising livestock. Sarah said that they currently have 15 cows; before then, they were show-heifers (cows that have not had calves). Raising cattle and farming is not their full-time profession. Sarah and

Kyle work for Bayer Crop Science, a German multinational pharmaceutical company.

Maddox has been part of 4-H for the last three years. He said he takes care of beef cattle, corn, and soybeans. He's also started doing photography.

Maddox said a lot of his friends are also involved in the show.

"My favorite part is get-

ting out in the show ring, win or lose. You still have fun and at the end of the day, it's still a competition... in the ring, it's game time," said Maddox.

The family plans to return next year, competing in the heifer class, and perhaps once again with a steer.

Maddox said that he wants to keep working on the farm, and own a farm in the future.

Teachers

From page 1

When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

I knew I wanted to be a band director by the time

I was a sophomore in high school. Band always gave me a place to belong and I benefited from the structure that it provided in my life. I hope to give

the students at Villa Grove the same structure and appreciation for music that I developed when I was their age.

Was there a particular

person who influenced your choice to teach?

I always looked up to any band director that I had. At any given moment during the day, I think about them and how the lessons they taught me affect how I teach my students. I would not be the educator I am today without the great role models I had in band.

What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

I enjoy it when students take the information they learn in class and use it to learn something new that interests them. Whether it is learning to play a new song on their own or studying music they enjoy a little bit more, seeing the students get independently involved in learning about music is always something that I enjoy seeing. I believe that any student I teach is capable of this and I look forward to seeing that in each student.

What do you like to do when you're not prepping/teaching?

Most importantly, I enjoy spending time with my wife and our two cats at home. Recently I have been getting into disc golf as a way to be active and outside. I also enjoy working out, rock climbing, and reading in my free time.

Elizabeth Nieto

Elizabeth Nieto once ruled the halls of VGHS as a student. Now she'll be herding students as the Spanish teacher at her alma mater.

Where did you graduate from High School? College?

I graduated from Villa Grove High School in 2008, Parkland College in 2018, and Millikin University in 2021.

When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

From a young age, I always knew I wanted to be a teacher but I was not sure what age group or subject! So excited to be teaching High School students a second language, creating cultural awareness and instilling bilingualism in our students.

Was there a particular person who influenced your choice to teach?

Yes, actually a few... Mr. Kyle Osborne (high school Social

Studies teacher), Ms. Rachel Henderson (high school Math teacher), and Mrs. Linda Pangburn (high school English teacher). I learned valuable life lessons from each one of them and they are all the reason I became an educator. Thank you!

What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

All of it... even grading!

What do you like to do when you're not prepping/teaching?

I love to spend time with my family, our daughters keep us busy with all their activities. During college basketball season, you can find us at the State Farm Center rooting on the Fighting Illini!

Shane Phebus

Shane Phebus always knew he would be a teacher; he just wasn't sure how or where. Consider those questions answered.

Where did you graduate from High School? College?

I graduated from Westville High School. I attended Danville Area Community College and Eastern Illinois University.

When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

I have always said I wanted to be a teacher even as a young person.

Was there a particular person who influenced your choice to teach?

No, but I did have a favorite teacher as a student, Mrs. Perkins (5th Grade) who grew my interest in reading tremendously.

What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

I enjoy helping student learn and become successful citizens.

What do you like to do when you're not prepping/teaching?

My wife and I enjoy watching our son, Fisher (11), travel soccer and cross country. We also have a daughter, Saylor (6), who is a girl scout and takes horse riding lessons. When we are not at those events, we like swimming, fishing, and riding ATVs as a family.



Hunter Dorman and his wife, Megan Dorman



Elizabeth Nieto

NOTICE

2 DAY Tri-County Fall Auction

September 29, 2023 – Toys @ 9:30 a.m.

Farm Toys, Trucks and Semis. The toy consignment is looking extremely good! NIB trucks and farm toys – lots of good old toys – call early to consign.

GENERAL AUCTION

September 30, 2023 – 8:00 a.m.

Farm Machinery and Tractors (modern and horse drawn) Lumber and Building Supplies, Tools (new and used) Furniture (antique and modern) Glassware, Lamps, Buggies, Farm Miscellaneous, Campers, Trucks, Cars, Trailers, Construction Equipment, Primitives, Collectibles, Lawn and Garden (expecting over 100 mowers)

Call by September 5th to be Included on the sale bill.

UNLOADING TIMES

September 23 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
September 25-27 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
September 28 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Call for an appointment if these times don't work for you.

Send information to:

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon J. Yoder
650 E CR 400 N – Arcola, IL 61910
Auction Phone: (217) 268-3444 V.M.

FALL CITYWIDE



Sept. 15 and 16

Get a star on The Journal

FALL CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE MAP

For \$20.00 you get a star on the map, your address, day and time of your sale, and a description of items.

Deadline for being included on the map is Friday, Sept. 8.

Map with sale locations and descriptions will be published Sept. 13 in The Journal.

Address of sale:

Check days you will be open and print hours:

Sept. 15 from _____ to _____

Sept. 16 from _____ to _____

Description of items 15 WORDS OR LESS: (more than 15 words will not fit in description box)

(not included in printed ad)

Name: _____

Phone# _____

Ck# _____

Credit Card Payment:

Card # _____

Exp date: _____ 3 digit code: _____

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Ad MUST BE PREPAID to be published. Mail in this form with your check or credit card information for \$20 to PO Box 170 Tuscola, IL 61953. Or drop off at our office during business hours. Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30.



Shane Phebus